

**STATE BOARD ADVISORY PANEL
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Arizona State Advisory Panel for Special Education held a meeting at Arizona Department of Education, 1535 W. Jefferson, Room 417, Phoenix, Arizona, on March 6, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ronald L. Clanton
Susan Douglas, Co-chair
Molly Dries
Jason Geroux
Robert Hill
Megan McGlynn
Mattie McVey Lord
Terisa Rademacher, Co-chair
Jean Sargent Richards, Ed.D
Kim Simmons
Kay B. Turner, Ed.D, Vice-chairperson
Nancy Williams

Others Present

Lynn Busenbark, ADE/ESS
Valerie Andrews, ADE/ECE
Roberta Alley, ADE/Assessment
Jeannette Zemeida, ADE/ESS

Members Absent

J'Anne Affeld
M. Diane Bruening
Phyllis Green
Erik Jensen
Kathy McDonald

Minutes Approved (As Read)(As Amended)

Chairperson: _____

Signature

Date

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
1. Call to order.	Terisa Rademacher, Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.	1. None
2. Approval of January 16, 2007 minutes.	Robert Hill made a motion and seconded by Ron Clanton to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting.	2. Motion carried
3. Public comment.	Ms. Rademacher welcomed the public in attendance. She explained to those present the procedures for making a comment. Anyone wishing to comment on an agenda item was asked to fill out a brief questionnaire stating which agenda item they wished to comment on. That person would then be called on when that item was discussed.	3. None
4. State Board of Education.	<p>Ms. Roberta Alley, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Assessment Division, Arizona Department of Education, reported that she spoke with Dr. Jerry D'Agostino at the University of Arizona regarding the U of A Study. He said that is difficult to decide whether or not calculator use during a standardized test will affect the outcome. The Department of Education also had teachers examine the test results from the preliminary testing. At the elementary level there was a high impact in fourth grade and fifth grade on the algebra questions. However, there seemed to be very little impact at the high school level.</p> <p>ASU will have a study out by the end of May.</p> <p>Ms. Alley stated that recommendations would be made at the April State Board meeting.</p> <p>Following Ms. Alley's report, the Panel discussed the use of calculators for standardized tests.</p>	4. None.
5. Proposition 203 and First Things First Presentation.	<p>Rhian Evans-Allvin, Public Policy Consultant gave the Panel the background on the creation of the Proposition 203, The Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative.</p> <p>The creation of the Initiative was begun in 2002. The vast majority of the Initiative was modeled after Smart Start in North Carolina, which was begun in the 1990's. It was determined that the Arizona program would need at least \$150 million every year. Ninety percent of a child's brain is developed by the age of 3. The Initiative was aimed at children 0-3 years of age because it is easier and cheaper to affect the brain within the first 3 years than at any other age. The intervention is also easier. Research shows that early childhood development is a wise investment in the future.</p> <p>Ms. Evans-Allvin highlighted the expected outcomes of investing in our children, which included: better reading, language and social skills, more likely to go to college; and more likely to earn higher wages.</p> <p>It was determined that the Arizona model had to be a locally driven model – it couldn't be a</p>	5. None

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>one-size fits all model. It also has to be flexible and has to have accountability. It was also determined that the Initiative had to have a dedicated funding stream. A tobacco tax was targeted because it was determined that voters would approve this over other tax sources.</p> <p>The funding priorities are: increased quality in child care; access to high quality child care; supplemental parent and family support programs; preventative health and dental programs; and professional development opportunities for child care workers. The Initiative also has a governance structure. This oversees the early childhood health and development system in Arizona in three areas: distributes public and private grants to local voluntary programs; provides technical assistance; and reports to the Governor and Legislature. An Early Childhood Health and Development Board, consisting of 9 members, has been appointed to oversee the program.</p> <p>Ms. Evans-Allvin outlined the 9 policy workgroups within the Board and encouraged the Panel to attend Board meeting and to recommend members for the regional boards that will be developed. She also encouraged the Panel to provide information on any issues that they are concerned about.</p> <p>Ms. Evans-Allvin fielded questions from the Panel.</p>	
6. School Facilities Board	<p>Sue Douglas reported that SEAP hasn't received a response to the letter which was sent to the School Facilities Board in January 2007.</p> <p>Ms. Rademacher reported that she forgot to send the panel members a copy of the revised letter which was approved at the January SEAP meeting. She reviewed the letter approved by the Panel and read the revised the sentence regarding the all-day kindergarten program. She promised to send copies to Panel members. In addition to members of the School Facilities Board, the letter was also sent to Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne, Art Harding, the ADE legislative liaison, and Becky Hill, the education policy advisor. Ms. Rademacher wasn't sure if Ms. Hill was still holding the position as her name was longer listed on the SFB website. Ms. Rademacher also sent the letter to the individual listed on the SFB website as the education policy advisor. Ms. Rademacher was told that Ms. Hill was no longer filling that position.</p> <p>Panel members requested that Mr. Arnold speak at the May meeting.</p>	6. None.
7. Exceptional Student Services.	<p>Dr. Lynn Busenbark, Acting Deputy Associate Superintendent, Exceptional Student Services, announced resignations within ESS: Hugh Pace (Director of Dispute Resolutions) and Joan Kern (Dispute Resolutions). The Dispute Resolutions Unit was down three investigators at peak season for complaints. The Phoenix office had two specialist vacancies and the Tucson</p>	7. Motion carried.

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>had one complaint investigator and two specialist vacancies. The Flagstaff office was stable. Dr. Busenbark announced that two individuals had been hired. Eric Edge started in February. He will be working with Roberta Brown in the Private School evaluation section. Leila Williams was hired to work with Judy Croswell for alternate assessment. She was slated to start in May.</p> <p>Four public reporting reports were posted on the ADE/ESS website: graduation/suspension, school-age LRE and the in-by-3 data. Preschool LRE and dropout rate were scheduled to be sent to Special Education Directors around the state for a preview. Dr. Busenbark was still creating the reports on the percentage of districts that made AYP for students with disabilities, participation rates for math and reading, and performance rates for math and reading.</p> <p>Dr. Busenbark reported on the current education legislation. ESS could not find out what was happening with the increase in the weights for the more mildly disabled students. Jason Geroux reported that it was in need of public opinion. It was stalled since the legislature wasn't hearing from the public about the issue. He encouraged everyone to contact the legislature with their opinions.</p> <p>A bill has been introduced that would allow students who have turned 22 years of age during the school year to remain in school for the balance of that school year. ESS will continue to watch this one. ESS will want to make sure that if this bill continues to move through the system that schools will be able to continue to claim funding for those students after their 21st birthday. They are currently removed from the SAIS system the day after they reach their 21st birthday.</p> <p>ESS is also watching the Definitions bill and the Surrogate Parent changes. They seemed to be doing okay as of the March meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Busenbark reported on the OSEP Meeting that ESS directors attended in Los Angeles.</p> <p>The diversion of 15 percent of funds for early intervening services is not based on policies, procedures and practices although it is a requirement that ADE institute that investigation. It is based on statistical data alone. However, the state can use its own definition for disproportionality. Arizona will need to establish a definition for significant disproportionality. The Panel discussed the consequences of diverting money to early intervening services.</p> <p>The Panel discussed sending a letter of support to the Legislature regarding SB 1487. Sue Douglas moved and Kay Turner seconded that "SEAP provide to the Legislature a letter of support for SB 1487. Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0; Abstentions: 5. The following Panel members abstained: Molly Dries, Jason Geroux, Robert Hill, Mattie McVey Lord, and Kim Simmons. Jason Geroux will draft the letter.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>Valerie Andrews informed the Panel that the Early Learning Institute will be held June 18-20, 2007 at Ft. McDowell Resort.</p> <p>Early Childhood has been working with AzIEP for a series of regional trainings on transitioning children from AzIEP to school districts by 3 years of age. Early Childhood will keep a data base of which school districts have attended the training.</p>	
8. Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders Study Report	<p>Sydney Pettygrove, PhD, assistant professor with the UA appeared before the Panel to report on the results of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Study. Dr. Pettygrove was involved in the study with Dr. John Meaney.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove explained that Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are life-long developmental disabilities that include impairment in social interaction, communication problems, and unusual behaviors or interests. ASDs can be identified as early as 18 months.</p> <p>The data in the study was collected in from 2000 and 2002 records. Data from 2004 is currently being analyzed. Dr. Pettygrove and her team will begin collecting data from 2006 soon. Arizona was one of the sites included in the study.</p> <p>The goal was to collect prevalence estimates. The team strived to be consistent in their method of identification.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove reviewed the Arizona results with the Panel. The prevalence of ASDs for children, aged 8 in 2000 was 6.5 per 1,000, which comes to about 1 in 154. The results were similar to other states studied but were higher than previously estimated. The number may be higher due to the redefinition of Autism Spectrum Disorders. In 2002 they found, in children aged 8 in 2002, 6.2 per 1,000, which comes to 1 in 161.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove explained how each record was analyzed to determine if it qualified for the study. The population of 8 year olds in the study, with 2000 and 2002 combined, was 90,435. The team originally planned to target both Maricopa and Pima counties but due to the size of the budget and the number of records that would have been involved, the team decided to review records only in Maricopa County. The staff reviewed 8,676 records. A lot of the records did not qualify. They ended up with 1,237 records to review.</p> <p>The staff determined that the median number of evaluations per child is 4. This is about the same as the other states that were reviewed, with the exception of New Jersey. The median age for earliest evaluation was 44 months. The range was from 2 to 102 months. The median age for earliest known ASD diagnosis was 58 months. The range was from 20 – 106 months.</p>	8. None

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	<p>Dr. Pettygrove reported that the team found 3.8 males to 1 female for every child identified. That was standard across the states. Fifty-five percent of the records showed that the child had ASD, even if the child did not have the diagnosis in his chart.</p> <p>The staff looked at files to determine if the child had any development concerns before the age of 3 that was noted in the record. Eighty-five percent of the files showed concern before 3. The concerns were: Social, 31%; Language, 78% and Imaginative Delay, 4%.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove informed the Panel that 81% of the cases were identified only through special education records (school records); 3% of the cases were clinical only; and 16% were identified by both types of records.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove showed the Panel charts that compared Arizona to the other states sampled in both 2000 and 2002 and compared results from state to state. Autism Spectrum Disorder is an urgent health issue that is affecting many children. Dr. Pettygrove hopes that this study will improve diagnosis and intervention.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove answered questions from the Panel.</p> <p>Dr. Pettygrove can be contacted by phone at 520-626-3704 or by e-mail at sydneyp@u.arizona.edu.</p>	
9. Panel Business	<p>Rebecca Hall and Johanna Bookbinder submitted letters of resignation to the Board. Ms. Hall was a Parent representative. Ms. Bookbinder represented Transition Services.</p> <p>Ms. Rademacher reviewed current member positions that will expire June 30, 2007:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ron Clanton, Parent Eric Jensen, Individual with a Disability J'Anne Affeld, Institute of Higher Learning and Parent</p> <p>Ms. Rademacher distributed copies of the State Performance Plan (SPP) Overview booklet which is printed by Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC). The booklet outlines the duties of Special Education Advisory Panels.</p> <p>Ms. Rademacher reported on the most recent teleconference call for Special Education Advisory Panels. The teleconferences are sponsored by MPRRC. John Copenhagen presented on the State Performance Plan. Ms. Rademacher thanked Dr. Busenbark for all her work on the SPP and for including SEAP in the process. Arizona is meeting its expectations</p>	9. None.

Topic	Discussion	Outcome
	and uses its Panel for the SPP more than most states.	
	Dr. Busenbark reminded the Panel that they needed to communicate with the Executive Committee of the ICC if they were interested in setting up another joint meeting with them. Last year SEAP held its first joint meeting with the ICC. The Panel discussed possible dates in June and July.	
10. Adjournment	<p>The next SEAP meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2007.</p> <p>Proposed agenda items for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Facilities Board• Proposition 203• Secure Care – Megan McGlynn• Part C – Molly Dries <p>Ms. Rademacher adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.</p>	10. Adjournment.